

The Connecticut General Assembly

State Representative Elizabeth Boukus
Serving the 22nd Assembly District
Plainville, New Britain



Statement in Support of H.B. 5392: An Act Concerning The Collection And Disposal Of Unwanted Medication

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan; Ranking Members Representative Giegler and Senator Guglielmo; and distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee:

My name is Representative Betty Boukus from Plainville, CT and I am here to support the proper disposal of old prescription drugs.

Disposing of medications presents a series of problems – both environmental and public safety-related.

Drugs in our landfills or flushed down the toilet can lead to medications tainting our water supply. In addition, throwing pills away in the trash could lead to dangerous medication getting into the wrong hands – children or addicts. We need to provide residents with a safe, convenient way to dispose of unwanted medications.

I would, however, urge committee members to amend H.B. 5392 as-written.

The state Department of Consumer Protection currently coordinates a voluntary initiative called the Community Drug Drop Box Program. Working with municipal police departments, the program installs medication drop boxes in a public area of the local police station. Police stations provide a safe and secure area for the disposal of medications and residents are able to throw away medications any time of day. The contents boxes are incinerated periodically. We have a drop box in the Plainville police station – it is very safe and convenient.

DCP believes this program should be expanded. I would ask the Committee to amend H.B. 5392 to expand the Community Drug Drop Box Program to every municipality in the state and refer it to General Law where there is a similar bill.

I would be happy to meet with any committee member to update this legislation and expand this very successful program.



Medication Disposal

Safely • Easily • Properly

There is growing concern that medications flushed down the drain endanger the aquatic environment and wildlife. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove all medications from wastewater. Therefore, disposing medication properly will reduce the overall risk of exposure to you, your family and the environment.

Unused medications left in medicine cabinets and other areas around the home have become a concern as well.

According to the Partnership for a Drug Free America:

- 6 out of 10 teens agree that prescription drugs are easy to get from parents' medicine cabinets.
- 4 out of 10 teens think that prescription drugs are safer to use than illegal drugs.

Here's how it works

Municipal police departments across the state are installing medication drop-boxes in their facilities to make it easier for their residents to remove unwanted or expired medications from their homes at no cost.

The medication drop-boxes are usually mounted on the lobby floor or wall and are accessible 24/7 in most police departments.

Not all medications can be discarded in the drop-boxes. Residents are advised to contact their local police departments to obtain a list of disposable medication.

Possible items that may be accepted:

- Over-the-counter medications
- Prescription medications
- Medication samples
- Medications for household pets
- Medicated lotions or ointments

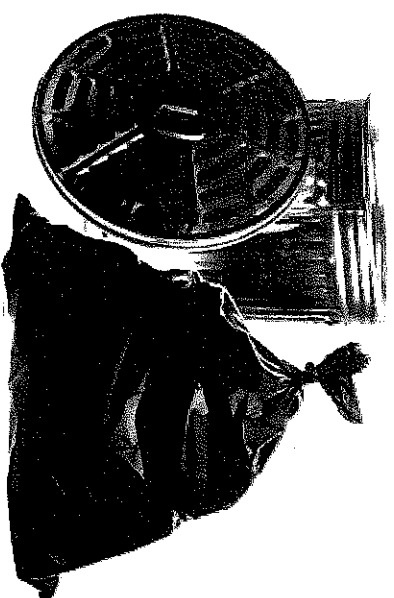
Possible items that may NOT be accepted:

- Needles or other "sharps"
- Hazardous waste
- Thermometers
- Personal care products (e.g. non-medicated shampoo, soap, etc.)
- Trash
- Mail
- Lost and found materials
- Empty containers
- Business/professional waste

Another safe disposal method

Dispose of medications in your household trash by:

1. **Keeping the medication in its original container.** Use a permanent marker, duct tape or remove the label to protect your private information
2. **Making medication less appealing.** Mix your medication with hot water to dissolve them. Add an undesirable substance, such as saw dust, coffee grounds or kitty litter.
3. **Containing and sealing.** Place it inside a container such as an empty yogurt or margarine tub to ensure that the contents cannot be seen and tape it shut.
4. **Throwing out the container in your trash can.** Do not put the container in your recycling bin!



Medication Drop-Box Program

What else can I do?

- Dispose of pharmaceuticals during community Drug Take Back events.
- Purchase drugs in small amounts, limiting your expired medications.
- Purchase medications or products with low environmental impact.
- Do not give medications to friends. Drugs that work for you may be dangerous for someone else.
- Speak to your teen about the dangers of prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse.
- Take good care of yourself, and practice preventive medicine, to reduce your reliance on medications.
- And please, do NOT dispose of your unused medications in the toilet.

Collection locations

Many municipal police departments are now participating in the Medication Drop-Box Program.

These drop boxes are managed by police departments and are available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. This is a confidential free service that will help protect our environment and our youth.

For a list of participating police departments, visit our website at www.ct.gov/dcp or contact the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection Prescription Monitoring Program at (860) 713-6073.

PMP
PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM

**Connecticut
Prevention Network**
www.ctprevention.org

Local Disposal of
Unused, Unwanted or
Expired Medications
Without Endangering the Environment
or Water Supplies



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to visit our drug disposal website.





Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection
Prescription Monitoring Program
165 Capital Avenue, Room 145 • Hartford, CT 06106
860.713.6073 • www.ct.gov/dcp



860.713.6073 • www.ct.gov/dcp

DCP: Local Drug Collection Boxes



 Governor Dannel P. Malloy |

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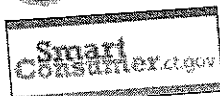


Awareness & Prevention

Complaint Center

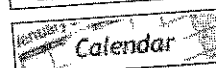
Online Services

Useful Links



IN A FOREIGN LOTTERY,
MORE THAN JUST THE ODDS
ARE AGAINST YOU.

EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES



Receive Updates by e-mail
e-ALERTS

Email Notices
for Licensees

Local Drug Collection Boxes

The following municipalities now have, or will soon have, medication drop boxes. These boxes are secured in the lobby of the police department, and are accessible anytime the department is open. No questions asked, just drop the unwanted medications in and they will be safely and securely destroyed.

What CAN and CANNOT be discarded in local medication drop-boxes

- YES:**
- Over-the-counter medications
 - Prescription medications
 - Medication samples
 - Medications for household pets
 - Medicated lotions or ointments
- NO:**
- Needles or other "sharps"
 - Hazardous waste
 - Thermometers
 - Personal care products (shampoo, etc.)

Active Drop Box Programs

ANSONIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
2 Elm Street
Ansonia, CT

BROOKFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
63 Silvermine Road
Brookfield, CT 06804

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
45 River Road (Rt-179)
Canton, CT

CHESHIRE POLICE UNION
500 Highland Ave
Cheshire, CT

CITY OF GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT

COLCHESTER RESIDENT TROOPERS OFFICE
127 Norwich Avenue
Colchester, CT

DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
25 HECKER AVE
DARIEN, CT

To Reach Us:

Within Hartford Area
and Outside Connecticut
860-713-6100

Elsewhere in Connecticut
800-842-2649

Hours, Location &
Directions

DCP: Local Drug Collection Boxes

GUILFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
400 Church Street
Guilford, CT

EAST HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
31 School Street
East Hartford, CT

EAST LYME POLICE DEPARTMENT
278 Main Street
Niantic, CT

ENFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
293 Elm Street
Enfield, CT

FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
319 New Britain Ave
Unionville, CT

GREENWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT
11 Bruce Place
Greenwich, CT

MANCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
239 Middle Turnpike E.
Manchester, CT

NAUGATUCK POLICE DEPARTMENT
211 Spring Street
Naugatuck, CT

NEW CANAAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
174 South Avenue
New Canaan, CT

NEW HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
1 Union Avenue
New Haven, CT

NEW LONDON POLICE DEPARTMENT
5 Governor Winthrop Boulevard
New London, CT

NORWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT
70 Thomas Street
Norwich, CT

PLAINVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
19 Neal Court
Plainville, CT

PUTNAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
189 Church Street
Putnam, CT

DCP: Local Drug Collection Boxes

REDDING POLICE DEPARTMENT
96 Hill Road
Redding, CT

RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
76 East Ridge
Ridgefield, CT

SHELTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
85 Wheeler Street
Shelton, CT

SIMSBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT
933 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT

SOUTHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
69 Lazy Lane
Southington, CT

SOUTH WINDSOR POLICE DEPARTMENT
151 Sand Hill Road
South Windsor, CT

TOWN OF GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
68 Groton Long Point Road
Groton, CT

VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT
725 Hartford Turnpike
Vernon, CT

WATERBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT
255 E MAIN ST
WATERBURY, CT

WATERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
41 Avery Lane
Waterford, CT

WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT
195 French Street
Watertown, CT

WILTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
240 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT

WINDSOR LOCKS POLICE DEPARTMENT
4 Volunteer Drive
Windsor Locks, CT

WOLCOTT POLICE DEPARTMENT
225 Nichols Road
Wolcott, CT

DCP: Local Drug Collection Boxes

Planned/Pending Drop Box Programs

NEWINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
131 CEDAR ST
NEWINGTON, CT

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